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Rodney Bartlett

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FINAL REPORT

ABSTRACT

Ab initio coupled-cluster theory applied to nitramine explosives RDX, HMX, and CL20. Isomers identified, and follow-up work will focus on transition ststes and activation barriers for decomposition. All applications are made possible by the development of the massively parallel ACES III program system, that runs highly efficiently on the DoD High-Performance Computer Systems. The other direction for this project is to organize most explosive molecules in terms for their functional groups, using localized orbitals and the natural liner scaling coupled-cluster approach.

Enter List of papers submitted or published that acknowledge ARO support from the start of the project to the date of this printing. List the papers, including journal references, in the following categories:

(a) Papers published in peer-reviewed journals (N/A for none)

| Received | | <u>Paper</u> | | |
|---|---------|---|--|--|
| 08/30/2011 | 1.00 | Rodney Bartlett, Victor Lotrich, Thomas Watson, Robert Molt. RDX Geometries, Excited States, and Revised Energy Ordering of Conformers via MP2 and CCSD(T) Methodologies: Insights into Decomposition Mechanism, Journal of Physical Chemistry A, (01 2011): 884. doi: | | |
| 12/07/2012 | 6.00 | Robert W. Molt, Alexandre Bazanté, Thomas Watson, Rodney J. Bartlett. Pragmatic ab initio prediction of enthalpies of formation for large molecules: accuracy of MP2 geometries and frequencies using CCSD(T) correlation energies, Journal of Molecular Modeling, (11 2012): 0. doi: 10.1007/s00894-012-1663-1 | | |
| TOTAL: | | 2 | | |
| Number of Pap | oers pu | (b) Papers published in non-peer-reviewed journals (N/A for none) | | |
| Received | | <u>Paper</u> | | |
| TOTAL: | | | | |
| Number of Papers published in non peer-reviewed journals: | | | | |
| (c) Presentations | | | | |

| June 2012 – Co Boulder, CO | oupled-Cluster Theory and Related Methods, a satellite meeting of the 2012 International Congress of Quantum Chemistry, |
|-------------------------------|---|
| September 201 | 2 – 3rd Conference on Theory and Applications of Computational Chemistry, Pavia, Italy |
| September 201 Number of Pro | 1 – 10th Central European Symposium on Theoretical Chemistry (CESTC 2011), Torun, Poland esentations: 3.00 |
| | Non Peer-Reviewed Conference Proceeding publications (other than abstracts): |
| | |
| Received | <u>Paper</u> |
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| Received | <u>Paper</u> |
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| | (d) Manuscripts |
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| Received | <u>Paper</u> |
| 12/07/2012 | 5.00 R. W. Molt, A. Bazante, T. J. Watson, R. J. Bartlett. The grezt diversity of HMX conformers: Probing the PES using CCSD(T),() |
| 12/07/2012 | 7.00Conformers of CL-20 Explosive and ab initio Refinement using Perturbation Theory; Implications to Detonation Mechanisms,() |
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| Books | | |
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| Patents Submitted | | |
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| Patents Awarded | | |
| Awards | | |
| Doctor Honoris Causa, Comensius University, Bratislava, Slovakia, October, 2012. | | |
| Dcctor of Science, Honoris Causa, Millsaps College, Jackson, MS, May, 2011. | | |
| Southern Chemist of the Year, ACS, Memphis, TN, January, 2010. | | |
| American Chemical Society, Fellow, 2010 | | |
| S.F. Boys – A. Rahman Award from the Royal Society of Chemistry 2009/2010 | | |
| Graduate Students | | |
| | | |
| NAME PERCENT_SUPPORTED Discipline Tom Watson 0.20 | | |
| Robert Molt 0.67 | | |

| <u>NAME</u> | PERCENT_SUPPORTED | Discipline |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------|
| Tom Watson | 0.20 | |
| Robert Molt | 0.67 | |
| Alex Bazanta | 0.00 | |
| Ann Melnichuk | 0.20 | |
| FTE Equivalent: | 1.07 | |
| Total Number: | 4 | |

Names of Post Doctorates

| NAME | PERCENT SUPPORTED | |
|-----------------|-------------------|--|
| Victor Lotrich | 0.20 | |
| Dmitry Lyakh | 0.33 | |
| FTE Equivalent: | 0.53 | |
| Total Number: | 2 | |

Names of Faculty Supported

| NAME | PERCENT SUPPORTED | National Academy Member |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Rod Bartlett | 0.12 | No |
| FTE Equivalent: | 0.12 | |
| Total Number: | 1 | |
| | Names of Under Graduate st | tudents supported |
| <u>NAME</u> | PERCENT_SUPPORTED | |
| FTE Equivalent: Total Number: | | |
| Student Metrics This section only applies to graduating undergraduates supported by this agreement in this reporting period | | |
| The number of undergraduates funded by this agreement who graduated during this period: 0.00 The number of undergraduates funded by this agreement who graduated during this period with a degree in science, mathematics, engineering, or technology fields: 0.00 | | |
| The number of undergraduates funded by your agreement who graduated during this period and will continue to pursue a graduate or Ph.D. degree in science, mathematics, engineering, or technology fields: 0.00 | | |
| Number of graduating undergraduates who achieved a 3.5 GPA to 4.0 (4.0 max scale): 0.00 | | |
| Number of graduating undergraduates funded by a DoD funded Center of Excellence grant for | | |
| Education, Research and Engineering: 0.00 | | |
| The number of undergraduates funded by your agreement who graduated during this period and intend to work for the Department of Defense 0.00 | | |
| The number of undergraduates funded by your agreement who graduated during this period and will receive scholarships or fellowships for further studies in science, mathematics, engineering or technology fields: 0.00 | | |
| Names of Personnel receiving masters degrees | | |
| <u>NAME</u> | | |
| Total Number: | | |
| Names of personnel receiving PHDs | | |
| <u>NAME</u> Tom Watson | | |
| Total Number: | 1 | |
| Names of other research staff | | |
| NAME | PERCENT SUPPORTED | |
| FTE Equivalent: | | |

Sub Contractors (DD882)

Total Number:

Scientific Progress

The work we have done under this grant has resulted in a number of advances in the field, and started a few others that we will continue to pursue in the future.

- Definitive studies of the ground state potential energy surfaces for the nitramine molecules RDX, HMX, and CL20 at the highest applicable level of ab initio, correlated, electronic structure theory: coupled-cluster (CC) theory with triple excitations, CCSD(T). The objective is to find all the energetically accessible isomers and associated activation barriers that would describe the energetic and kinetic effects on their detonation and decomposition.
- Investigation of low-lying excited states using the equation-of-motion (EOM) CC. This aspect is also important in understanding the critical initial steps from deflagration to detonation. In most processes sufficient energy will exist to excite a molecule into its electronic excited states, whether done by shock or by photon excitation, which opens new pathways toward deflagration.
- Introduction of a new way to begin to organize the chemistry of energetic materials, based upon their functional groups. Using the nitramines as prototypes, the idea is to be able to organize and understand most of the critical properties of the isolated molecules in terms of transferable *CH2-N-NO2 units. The * means an artificial bond to a 'link' atom that accommodates all valences in the methyl nitramine group, to enable it to assume its normal electron pair bonding patterns. By using the ideas of the Natural Linear Scaling Coupled-Cluster (NLSCC) method, a transformation to local orbitals is expected to sufficiently separate the different functional groups into transferable units, that those units, say taken from RDX, will equally well describe HMX or CL20 without having to do the calculation for the whole system.
- This also means that all excited states of nitramines will be understood in terms of 3 units for RDX, 4 for HMX, and 6 for CL20. That classifies the excited states as intramolecular consisting of excitations within one nitramine unit or, intermolecular, between two units. If they occur, the completely delocal excited states would presumably involve all units, but the above classification should greatly aid in interpreting the spectra of the molecules.
- To the degree that the units are genuinely transferable, then stringing together many of them as building blocks would enable a description of even the crystalline form.
- Once the same procedure is used to separate other energetic units, like *CH2-NO2, eg, then the units can be combined together to build any molecule that is composed of nitramne and nitro groups. Extension to other units is apparent.
- This procedure potentially provides a way to represent the 'electronic structure' of all energetic molecules in terms of their component units, much as molecular mechanics provides the geometric structure of molecules based upon the force-fields that have been created

Technology Transfer